



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (Bannock County) unemployment rate edged up two-tenths of a percentage point in July 2002 to 5.9 percent over the June 2002 revised rate of 5.7 percent, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1. The number of individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force* declined by 540 and the number of individuals employed declined by 570, driving the unemployment rate increase. The closure of schools throughout the area contributed to decreases in *Civilian Labor Force* and employment. Since July 2001, the area's unemployment rate climbed eight-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.1 percent to 5.9 percent. The increased unemployment rate resulted from the loss of manufacturing and retail jobs because of the national recession.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* dropped from 32,660 in June 2002 to 31,740 in July 2002. The loss of 920 jobs was primarily in *Government Education* (740) because schools closed for summer break and in *Services* (100) because of reductions in *Business* and *Social Services*, which were also influenced by school closures. Reductions in *Retail Trade* (70) and *Manufacturing* (30) were normal seasonal changes that usually occur in July. *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased from 31,930 in July 2001 to 31,740 in July 2002. The decrease of 760 jobs was primarily because the national recession, local job losses, and a decline in tourism created job reductions in *Wholesale* and *Retail Trade* (280).

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### Job Service Job Openings

The Idaho Department of Labor, through its local Job Service offices, is a business consulting organization with a dual mission: *to assist business in solving employment and training related challenges and to help people with career transitions*. Part of this mission is the labor exchange – matching employer's needs for workers with skilled job seekers. Job Service tracks the number of job openings and categorizes them by occupational classifications. This is the last year the current classification system will be used. Beginning July 1, 2002 the current classification system, which uses the Dictionary of Occupational

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	July 2002*	June 2002	July 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,910	41,450	41,210	-1.3	-0.7
Unemployment	2,410	2,380	2,110	1.3	14.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	5.7	5.1		
Total Employment	38,500	39,070	39,100	-1.5	-1.5
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	39,570	40,580	39,870	-2.5	-0.8
Unemployment	2,230	2,270	1,950	-1.8	14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.6	4.9		
Total Employment	37,340	38,310	37,920	-2.5	-1.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	31,740	32,660	31,930	-2.8	-0.6
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,570	4,610	4,570	-0.9	0.0
Mining & Construction	1,890	1,900	1,950	-0.5	-3.1
Manufacturing	2,680	2,710	2,620	-1.1	2.3
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	27,170	28,050	27,360	-3.1	-0.7
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,790	1,790	1,790	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,310	1,400	-0.8	-7.1
Retail Trade	6,590	6,660	6,770	-1.1	-2.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,810	1,810	1,690	0.0	7.1
Services	8,380	8,480	8,340	-1.2	0.5
Government Administration	3,600	3,560	3,580	1.1	0.6
Government Education	3,700	4,440	3,790	-16.7	-2.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

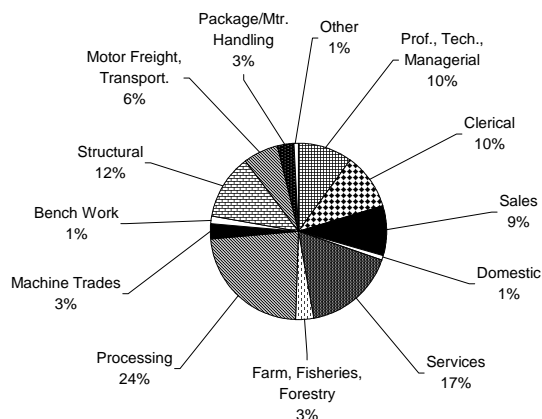
\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeast Table 2: Job Openings by Occupational Group

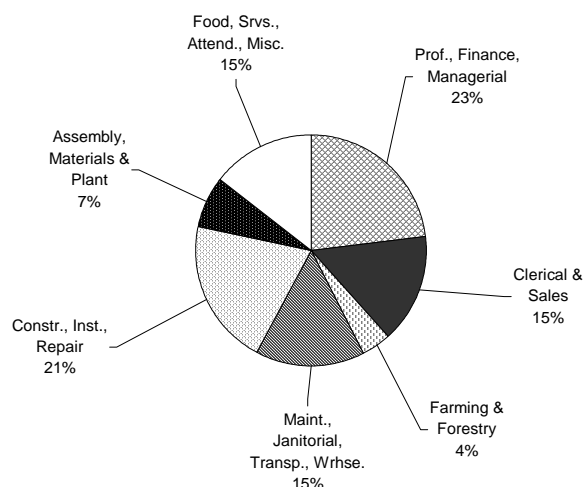
			# Change	% Dchange	Statewide	Statewide
	FY 2001	FY 2002	2001-2002	2002-2002	# change	% change
Prof., Tech., Managerial	796	781	-15	-1.9	-503	-5
Clerical	1119	829	-290	-25.9	-2123	-16.9
Sales	709	720	11	1.6	-1535	-20.5
Domestic	23	51	28	121.7	99	7.3
Services	1253	1339	86	6.9	-1464	-10.4
Farm, Fisheries, Forestry	292	262	-30	-10.3	-1360	-19.7
Processing	1756	1838	82	4.7	-149	-3.7
Machine Trades	172	224	52	30.2	187	8.3
Bench Work	87	93	6	6.9	-1004	-43.7
Structural	635	952	317	49.9	-700	-9.3
Motor Freight, Transport.	464	492	28	6.0	31	0.8
Package/Mtr. Handling	323	241	-82	-25.4	-1131	-17.8
Other	15	76	61	406.7	-114	-12.4
TOTAL	7683	7898	215	2.8	-9766	-12.2

Titles (DOT), will change to the new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). This updated system is simplified and includes new occupations not in existence when the old system was implemented and eliminates obsolete oc-

Southeast Chart 1: Percentage of Job Openings by Occupational Group



Southeast Chart 2: Current Job Openings by Occupational Groups



cupations. The occupational classifications used for fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002) are:

1) Professional, Technical, and Managerial; 2) Clerical; 3) Sales; 4) Domestic; 5) Farming, Fisheries, Forestry; 6) Processing; 7) Machine Trades; 8) Bench Work; 9) Structural; 10) Motor Freight, Transportation; 11) Package/Material Handling; and 12) Other.

A comparison of job openings year-over-year gives an indication of how economic conditions may have affected hiring throughout the area. Job openings from fiscal year 2001 (July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001) to fiscal year 2002 are compared in Southeast Table 2: *Job Openings by Occupational Group* (page 17). Despite the national recession and recent business closures, there was an increase in job opportunities. While these jobs may not have matched the qualifications and pay some job seekers desired, there were ample jobs available for individuals who wanted to work.

The total number of job openings listed with the area Job Service offices for the seven Southeast Idaho counties of Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power increased by 215, from 7,683 in fiscal year 2001 to 7,898 in fiscal year 2002. Two occupational categories, *Processing* occupations (1,838) and *Services* (1,339), accounted for nearly half of all job openings. *Processing* occupations were high because of the continued

need for food service workers and the high level of manufacturing jobs in the area. *Service* occupation needs were driven by the health care and business service sectors. Some occupational groups experienced declining job opportunities. Technology has eliminated the need for some *Clerical* occupations as computers do more of the work formerly done by people and personal computers allow executives and managers to do much of their own clerical work rather than hire additional staff.

In comparison, statewide job openings dropped 14 percent, from 79,443 in fiscal year 2001 to 69,677 in fiscal year 2002. Declines occurred in nine of the twelve major occupational categories. *Bench Work* occupations suffered the highest rate of decline of all occupational categories because the timber and high-tech sectors were particularly hard hit by the national economic recession.

Of all job openings listed with Southeast Idaho Job Service offices, *Processing* occupations (24 percent), *Service* occupations (17 percent), and *Structural* occupations (12 percent) provided more than half of all job opportunities during the fiscal year, as shown in Southeast Chart 1: *Percentage of Job Openings by Occupational Group*. *Professional, Technical & Managerial* occupations, *Clerical* occupations, and *Sales* occupations provided most of the remaining job opportunities over the fiscal year even though the *Clerical* occupational category suffered a decline in job opportunities. The remaining seven occupational categories—*Motor Freight & Transportation*; *Package & Material Handling*; *Machine Trades*; *Farm, Fisheries & Forestry*; *Bench Work*; *Domestic*; and *Other*—provided only 18 percent of all job opportunities over the fiscal year.

Currently, there are 447 job openings listed with the two Southeast Idaho Job Service offices located in Pocatello and Blackfoot. The types of job openings are fairly diverse with a good representation of jobs in all of the occupational groups, as shown in Southeast Chart 2: *Current Job Openings by Occupational Groups*. *Professional, Finance, and Managerial* jobs account for 23 percent of the job opportunities or just over 100 jobs. The high level of job opportunities is driven by the need for healthcare workers. *Construction, Installation & Repair* occupations provide 21 percent of the job opportunities in the area but are seasonal and opportunities will decline as winter approaches. *Maintenance, Janitorial, Transportation & Warehouse*; and *Food Service, Attendants & Miscellaneous Service* occupations combined account for 30 percent of the job opportunities.

Since jobs listed through Job Service account for approximately 35 percent of all jobs available in the area, there are ample jobs available for individuals who want to work despite the national recession and recent job losses in the Southeast Idaho area. Jobs range from entry-wage and entry-skill level jobs to high-wage and high-skill level jobs. Pay for current job openings range from \$5.15 per hour to \$28.00 per hour, but the majority of jobs fall between \$7.00 and \$12.00 per hour.

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